

No. 1052

8p

AUS. N.Z. 30c

Commando

WAR STORIES IN PICTURES



NO WAY BUT DOWN



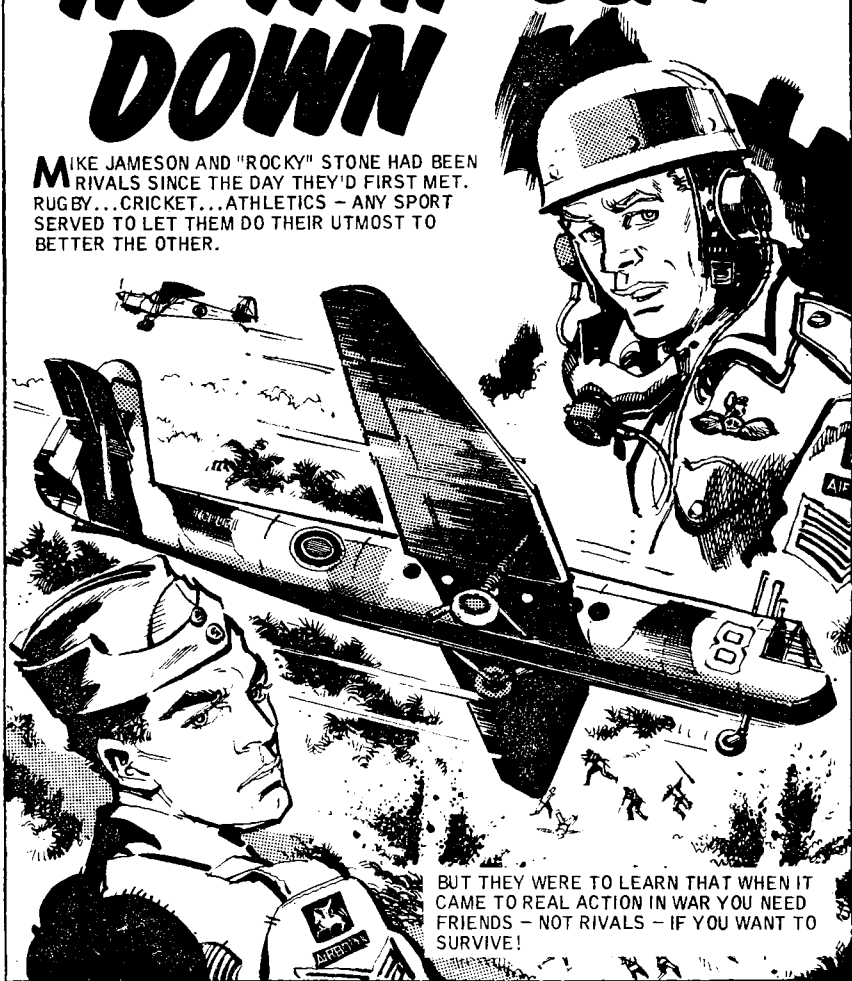
It's a Record!



No. 2 — An unrivalled spell of spin bowling in a Test match against Australia in 1956 gave JIM LAKER of England the world record for taking the most wickets in one match. Over both innings his figures were 19 wickets for 90 runs. This easily beat the previous record which had stood at 17, and left the Aussies a little bewildered. Or, dare we say . . . bowled over?

NO WAY BUT DOWN

MIKE JAMESON AND "ROCKY" STONE HAD BEEN RIVALS SINCE THE DAY THEY'D FIRST MET. RUGBY...CRICKET...ATHLETICS - ANY SPORT SERVED TO LET THEM DO THEIR UTMOST TO BETTER THE OTHER.



BUT THEY WERE TO LEARN THAT WHEN IT CAME TO REAL ACTION IN WAR YOU NEED FRIENDS - NOT RIVALS - IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE!

WHEN WAR BROKE OUT MANY TEENAGERS WANTED TO JOIN UP. SOME, LIKE MIKE JAMESON, WERE OLD ENOUGH AND WERE ACCEPTED. BUT OTHERS LIKE MIKE'S BROTHER, TED, AND ROCKY STONE, HAD TO WAIT.



FOR ONCE ROCKY WAS REALLY STUMPED. THERE WAS NO WAY HE COULD BETTER MIKE THIS TIME

WITH MIKE IN THE ARMY, ROCKY COULDN'T WAIT UNTIL HE WAS OLD ENOUGH TO JOIN UP.



AS ROCKY DAY-DREAMED, MIKE WAS BUSY IN FRANCE WITH VERY MUCH THE SAME THOUGHTS AS HIS OLD RIVAL.



SO, JUST AS SOON AS IT WAS POSSIBLE, MIKE APPLIED TO JOIN THE ARMY AIR CORPS. HE WAS SURPRISED TO FIND ROCKY AND TED DOING THE SAME PILOT APTITUDE TESTS.



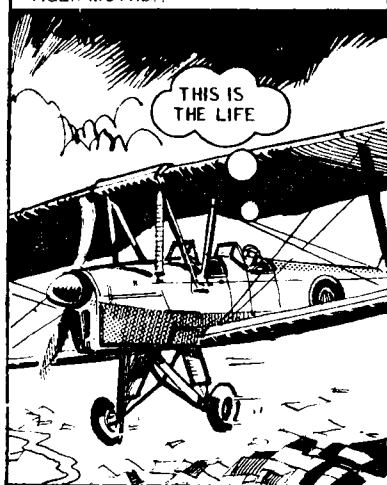
TOO MANY PASSED THE APTITUDE TESTS FOR THEM ALL TO BE ACCEPTED AS ARMY AIR CORPS PILOTS. BUT THERE WAS ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO FLY...



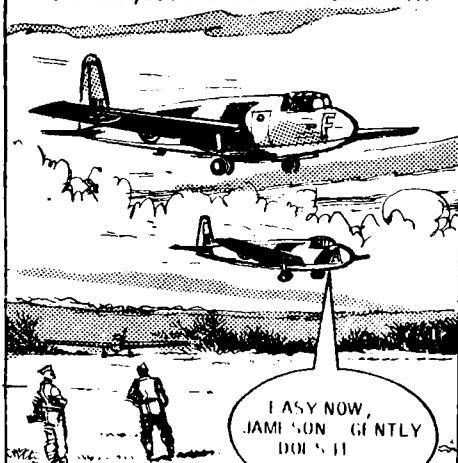
WHEN THE SELECTIONS WERE MADE PREFERENCE WAS GIVEN TO MEN WHO HAD BEEN IN COMBAT



AND SO MIKE BEGAN HIS TRAINING ON TIGER MOTHS...



...WHILE ROCKY AND TED FLEW HOTSPUR GLIDERS. ROCKY TOOK TO IT LIKE A DUCK TO WATER, BUT TED HAD HIS PROBLEMS...



THE TRIO GOT THEIR WINGS. MIKE BECAME A SERGEANT IN THE ARMY AIR CORPS AND TED AND ROCKY SERGEANTS IN THE GLIDER PILOT REGIMENT. ROCKY WAS GOOD ENOUGH TO BECOME A FIRST PILOT, WHILE TED WAS CONTENT TO BE A SECOND PILOT.



BUT MIKE WAS WRONG. ACTION WAS PLANNED FOR THE GLIDER PILOTS - AND IT WASN'T POPULAR



AND SO THE NEWLY-TRAINED GLIDER PILOTS WERE SENT FOR.



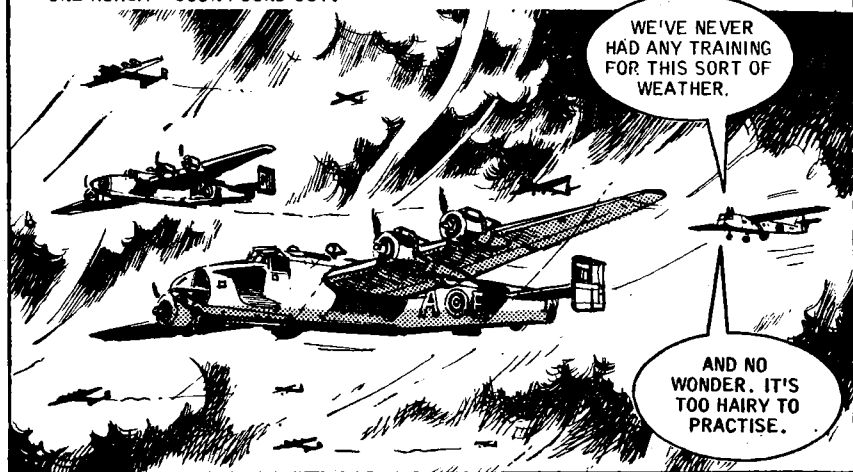
SO TED AND ROCKY HEADED FOR ACTION AHEAD OF AN IRATE MIKE.



THE OPERATION WAS NECESSARY, BUT IT HAD NEVER BEEN LIKED BY EITHER THE ARMY OR AIR FORCE BRASS.



THE CONDITIONS WERE NOT IDEAL, AS ROCKY AND TED - PILOT AND CO-PILOT OF ONE Horsa - SOON FOUND OUT.



GLIDERS WERE NOT INTENDED FOR BAD WEATHER FLYING AND DISASTERS WERE INEVITABLE. BUT NO ONE SUGGESTED TURNING BACK. THE GLIDER PILOTS WERE GOING TO SHOW THEIR WORTH ON THEIR FIRST MISSION.



WITH SHEER DETERMINATION THE SMALL FLEET OF GLIDERS PRESSED ON FOR THEIR OBJECTIVE.



SOON THEY WERE NEARING THE AIRFIELD IN NORWAY THAT WAS THEIR TARGET



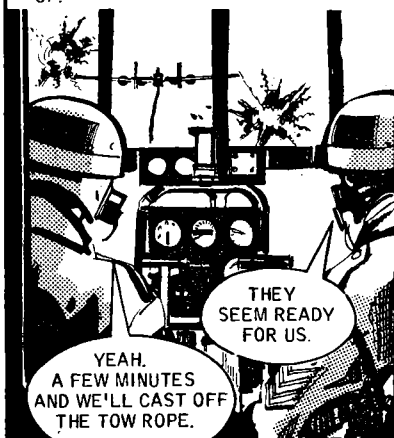
ABOUT FIVE MINUTES TO CAST-OFF, LADS. HOPE YOU ENJOYED YOUR FLIGHT

I WANTED A RETURN TICKET.

IT'LL BE AN UNDERWATER TRIP HOME FOR US.

A BRITISH SUBMARINE WOULD IN FACT BE WAITING AT A PRE-ARRANGED RENDEZVOUS TO EVACUATE THESE RAIDERS.

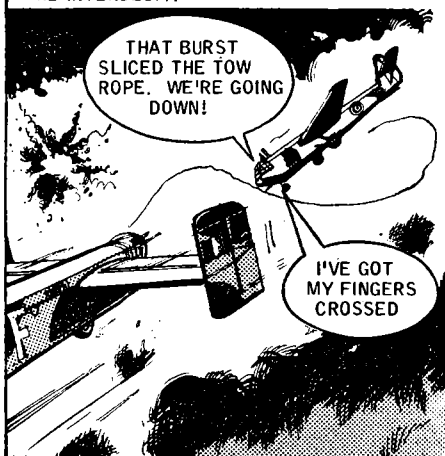
AS THEY GOT NEARER THEIR TARGET A HEAVY CURTAIN OF FLAK WAS PUT UP.



THEY SEEM READY FOR US.

YEAH. A FEW MINUTES AND WE'LL CAST OFF THE TOW ROPE.

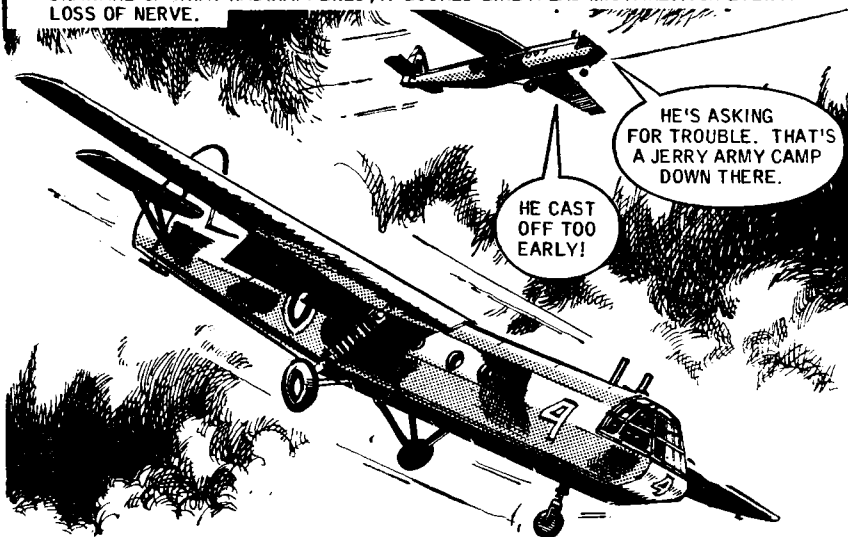
BUT ROCKY WAS CAST OFF SOONER THAN HE INTENDED...



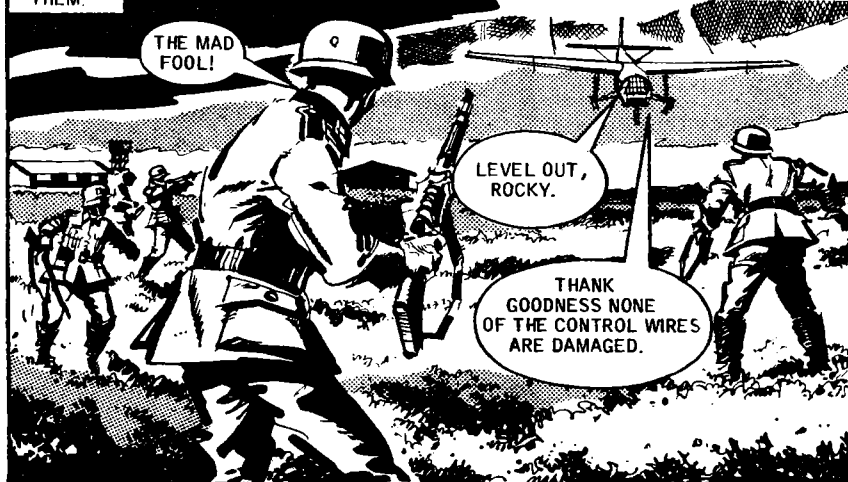
THAT BURST SLICED THE TOW ROPE. WE'RE GOING DOWN!

I'VE GOT MY FINGERS CROSSED

CUT OFF FROM ITS TUG, THE GLIDER SANK SLOWLY DOWN. TO THE OTHER PILOTS, UNAWARE OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED, IT LOOKED LIKE A BAD MISTAKE...OR EVEN A LOSS OF NERVE.



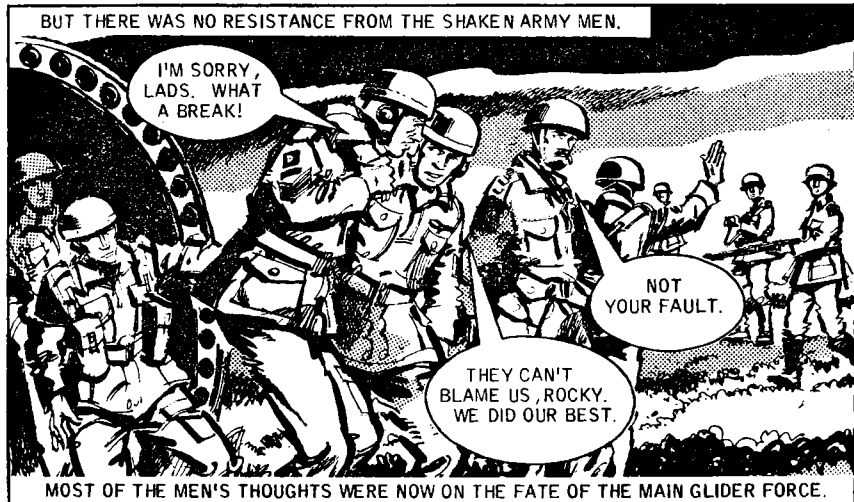
IT WAS A FRIGHTENING SIGHT FOR THE ENEMY AS THE HORSA DIVED STEEPLY TOWARDS THEM.



THE Horsa's NOSE WAS PULLED UP AND THE HEFTY WOODEN MACHINE LANDED - TOTALLY SURROUNDED BY GERMANS.



BUT THERE WAS NO RESISTANCE FROM THE SHAKEN ARMY MEN.



MOST OF THE MEN'S THOUGHTS WERE NOW ON THE FATE OF THE MAIN GLIDER FORCE.

THEY WEREN'T DOING WELL. THE MISSION HAD BEEN BADLY PLANNED AND NOW HAD NO CHANCE OF SUCCESS.



RESISTANCE WAS FUTILE, AND SOON ALL WERE CAPTURED AND MADE TO BOARD A PRISON TRAIN. JOE WRIGHT, A GLIDER CO-PILOT, WONDERED WHY ROCKY HAD GONE DOWN TOO SOON.



TED WAS PUT IN A SPECIAL HOSPITAL CARRIAGE, AND ONCE ON THE TRAIN HIMSELF, IN A LOCKED WAGON, ROCKY TOLD JOE ABOUT THE UNLUCKY FLAK BURST.



...SO IF WE
HADN'T LANDED
THERE, WE'D HAVE
CRASHED.

SORRY, I GOT
IT ALL WRONG. I DIDN'T
SEE THAT FLAK BURST.
WONDER IF WE COULD
GET OUT OF HERE?

THE GERMAN GUARDS WEREN'T EXACTLY ALERT. SO MANY OF THE PRISONERS WERE WOUNDED THAT THEY POSED LITTLE PROBLEM.

BUT ROCKY AND JOE SEARCHED AROUND AND MANAGED TO BREAK A WEAKENED PIECE OF METAL FREE OF A BRACKET. WITH THIS THEY ATTEMPTED TO FORCE THE DOOR OPEN -



JUST A BIT
MORE...

YOU'VE DONE
IT. WE'LL JUMP
OUT THE NEXT TIME
THE TRAIN SLOWS
DOWN...

THEY WAITED UNTIL THE TRAIN CLIMBED A STEEP HILL. THEN -



THEY MOVED FAST OVER THE ROUGH COUNTRY, GUIDED BY HELPFUL NORWEGIANS TO THE COAST.

WHEN THEY GOT TO THE RENDEZVOUS, ROCKY AND JOE FOUND THEY WEREN'T ALONE.



THE SUB'S CAPTAIN JUST COULDN'T BELIEVE IT WHEN HE SAW HOW FEW HAD SURVIVED THE MISSION.



THE NAVY LOOKED AFTER THEIR CHARGES WELL. AND, AFTER AS PLEASANT A VOYAGE AS THE CRAMPED QUARTERS ON A SUB ALLOWED, THEY ARRIVED BACK HOME WHERE AN ANXIOUS MIKE WAS AMONG THOSE WAITING.



ROCKY WAS TOO EXHAUSTED TO TELL MIKE THE FULL STORY OF THEIR FORCED LANDING.



MIKI WAS THINKING ONLY OF HIS BROTHER AND DIDN'T REALISE HOW SPENT THE TROOPS WERE.

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO LET HIM BE SENT FLYING WITH A USELESS KID LIKE YOU.

THESE MEN ARE DONE. LET THEM BOARD, SERGEANT!

IT WAS MURDER OVER THERE. EVEN IF ROCKY HAD PUT DOWN WITH THE REST OF US IT WOULDN'T HAVE MADE ANY DIFFERENCE.

JOE'S LAST REMARK PUZZLED HIM AND THE OLD RIVALRY WAS TURNING INTO SOMETHING MORE LIKE HATRED.

WHAT DID HE MEAN - IF ROCKY HAD LANDED WITH THE OTHERS? ROCKY'S HIDING SOMETHING

BY ASKING AROUND HE DISCOVERED HOW ROCKY AND TED HAD LANDED APART FROM THE OTHER GLIDERS, AND ROCKY'S EXPLANATION OF WHY IT HAD HAPPENED.

MIKE WANTED ACTION AND VOLUNTEERED FOR THE BURMA CAMPAIGN. BUT BEFORE HE LEFT, HE HAD A QUESTION TO ASK.



WHAT'S THE CHANCE OF A GLIDER'S TOW-ROPE BEING CUT BY GUN-FIRE, SIR?

PRETTY SLIM, I THINK.

MIKE JUMPED TO THE WRONG CONCLUSION. HE WAS CERTAIN THAT ROCKY HAD CHICKENED OUT OF THE MISSION AND HAD INVENTED THE EXCUSE ABOUT THE TOW-ROPE BREAKING.



STONE THOUGHT HE'D GET OUT OF TROUBLE BY DROPPING EARLY, BUT IT DIDN'T WORK.

SO BEFORE BEING SENT TO BOARD HIS TROOPSHIP FOR THE FAR EAST, MIKE CONFRONTED ROCKY.



I RECKON IT WAS YOUR FAULT THAT TED GOT WOUNDED. YOU'RE A COWARD!

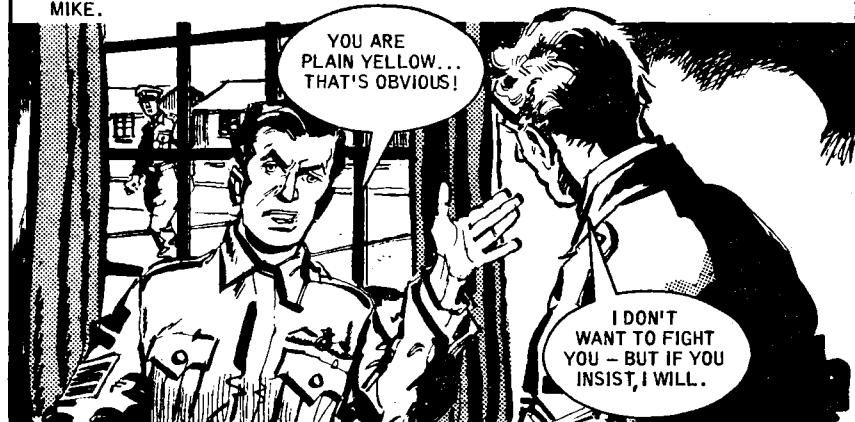
YOU'RE WORKED UP... IT WASN'T THAT WAY AT ALL.

IF ROCKY WAS A COWARD HE'D BE SITTING IN A P.O.W. CAMP RIGHT NOW - AND HE ISN'T.

MIKE WAS IN NO MOOD TO LISTEN TO EXCUSES.



ROCKY WAS NO COWARD. HE KNEW HOW UPSET MIKE WAS ABOUT HIS BROTHER AND FELT IT POINTLESS TO FIGHT. BUT IF HE DIDN'T FIGHT HIS MATES MIGHT BELIEVE MIKE.



MIKE GOT IN WITH THE FIRST BLOW.

HAVE THAT
FOR STARTERS.
I'LL WHIP YOU BLACK
AND BLUE.

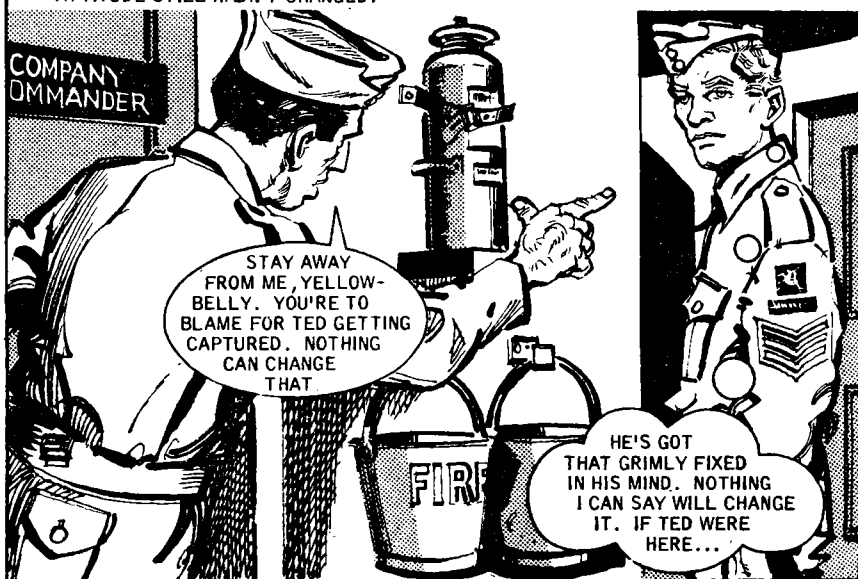
YOU AND
WHOSE ARMY?
YOU'LL BE SORRY
YOU PUSHED ME
INTO THIS.

WHAT'S
GOING ON HERE?
BREAK IT
UP.

THE PAIR FOUND THEMSELVES ON
THE CARPET THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

SINCE YOU
LEAVE FOR BURMA
TOMORROW, JAMESON, I'LL
OVERLOOK LAST NIGHT'S
INCIDENT. A FEW THOUSAND
MILES BETWEEN YOU TWO
SHOULD STOP ANY MORE
BRAWLING.

SO THEY WERE LET OFF VERY LIGHTLY, BUT DESPITE ALL THE EVIDENCE, MIKE'S ATTITUDE STILL HADN'T CHANGED.



MEANWHILE TED WAS RECOVERING IN A P.O.W. CAMP HOSPITAL IN GERMANY AND WAS WELL ENOUGH TO WRITE.



MIKE'S LETTER WOULD HAVE FURTHER TO GO THAN HE ANTICIPATED, FOR MIKE WAS LEAVING THAT VERY DAY FOR THE FAR EAST.



THE WAR WENT ON, AND THE GLIDER PILOTS KEPT UP THEIR TRAINING. JOE BECAME ROCKY'S CO-PILOT AND ONE DAY THEY HAD CHEERING NEWS.

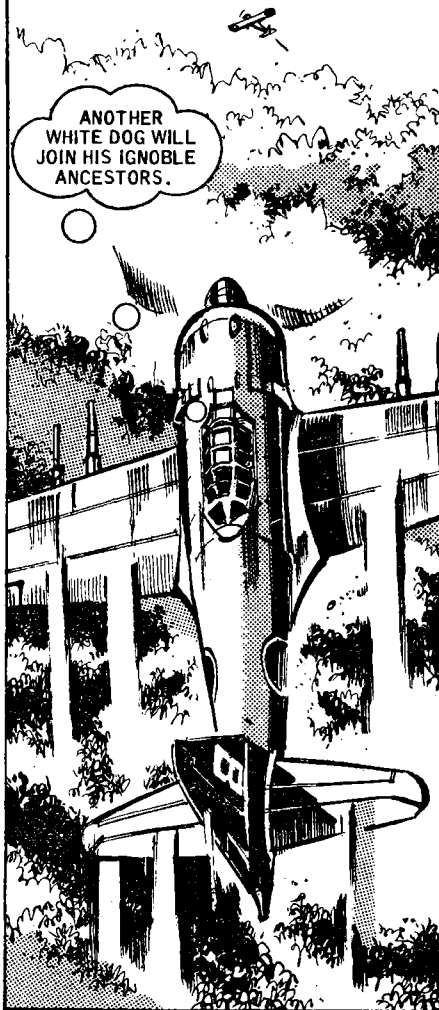


BUT TED'S LETTER TO MIKE HAD JUST BEEN RECEIVED IN ENGLAND AND WAS STILL AWAITING RE-ROUTING TO BURMA.

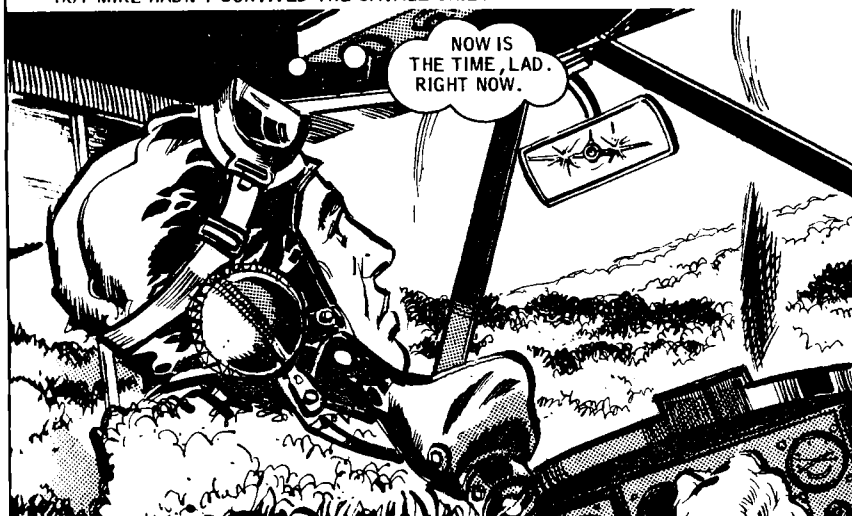
AND WHILE ROCKY AND JOE REJOICED, MIKE WAS SWEATING AT THE CONTROLS OF AN AUSTER AS HE RADIOED JAP POSITIONS FOR THE BRITISH ARTILLERY TO STRIKE AT, UNAWARE OF HIS BROTHER'S LETTER.



AND HE DIDN'T HAVE THE SKIES TO HIMSELF. THE JAPS DEALT PROMPTLY WITH THESE AUSTERS WHO SPOTTED FOR THE ARTILLERY AND CAUSED GREAT DAMAGE AND CHAOS.

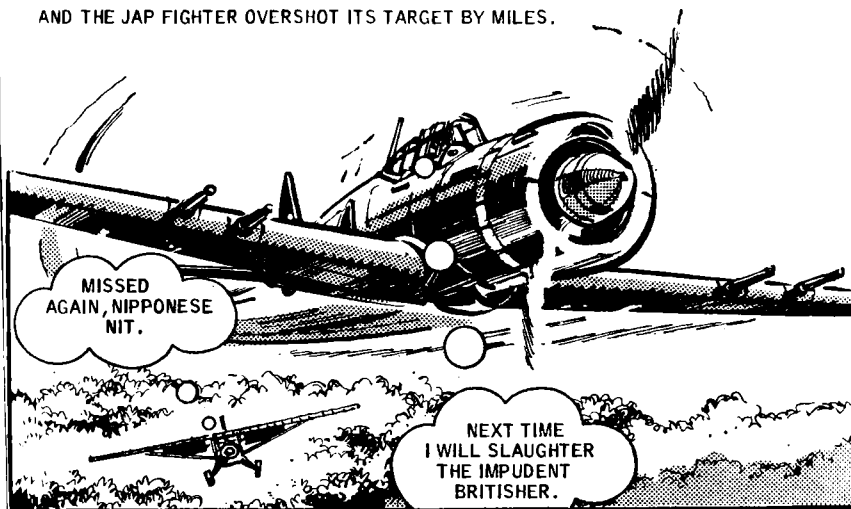


BUT MIKE HADN'T SURVIVED THE SAVAGE SKIES BY NOT KEEPING A LOOK-OUT...

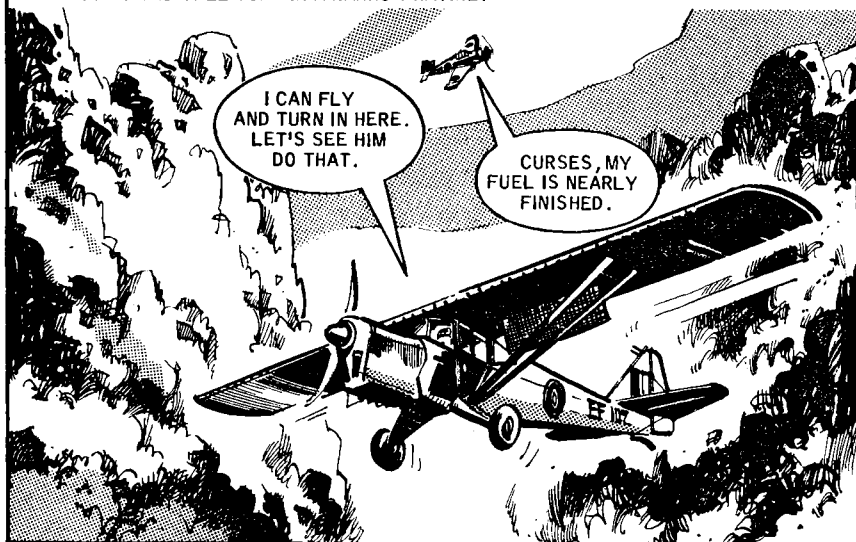


HE LOWERED HIS FLAPS AND CUT HIS SPEED, ALMOST STALLING THE AUSTER - AND THE STALLING SPEED OF THE AUSTER WAS ALMOST LIKE STANDING STILL.

AND THE JAP FIGHTER OVERSHOT ITS TARGET BY MILES.



BUT THERE WAS NO NEXT TIME. MIKE CHANGED COURSE QUICKLY AND WAS SOON HUGGING THE TREE-TOPS IN A NARROW RAVINE.



ONCE AGAIN MIKE RETURNED SAFELY FROM A HAZARDOUS PATROL, AND HIS RELIABILITY HAD NOT GONE UNNOTICED.



BUT MIKE'S MIND WAS ON HIS BROTHER - NOT PROMOTION.

OUT POST FROM THE U.K. TO THE FAR
EAST WAS GLOW...



...AND TED'S EXPLANATORY LETTER TO
MIKE WENT DOWN WHEN THE MAIL SHIP
WAS TORPEDEED.

MEANWHILE ROCKY AND HIS MATES
WERE ABOUT TO SET OFF ON THEIR
MOST IMPORTANT MISSION - D-DAY.

THIS IS A
PROPERLY PLANNED
JOB THIS TIME.

WE'LL SOON
HAVE JERRY ON
THE RUN.



EVEN AS THEY FORMED UP AND FLEW IN FORMATION WITH THE MASSIVE AIR ARMADA,
ROCKY COULDN'T FORGET THE PILOT ON HIS FIRST MISSION.

WISH
TED WERE HERE.
STILL, THE WAR'LL
SOON BE OVER.



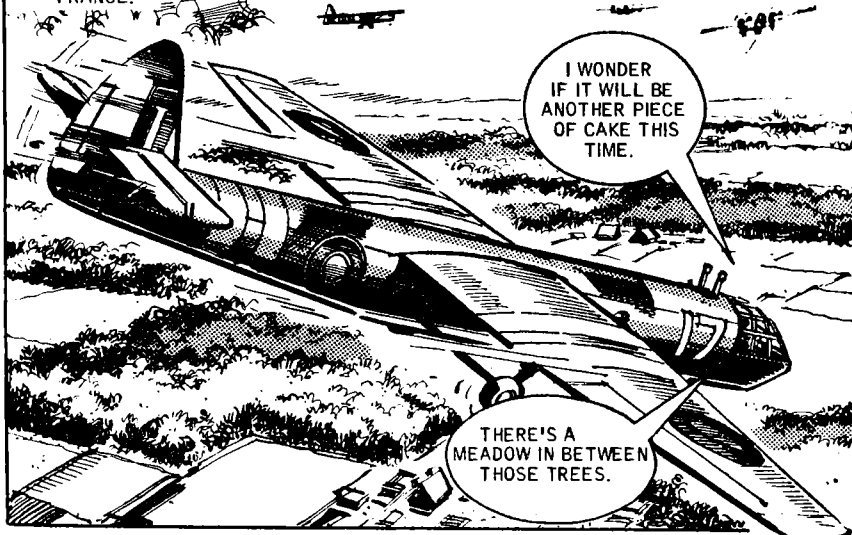
THEY ARRIVED OVER FRANCE AND SAFELY CAST OFF FROM THE TUG, ANGLING DOWN TO LAND AT LAST ON NAZI SOIL AGAIN.



THERE WAS NO SIGN OF THE ENEMY ON THE FIRST LANDING.



ROCKY AND JOE WERE TRANSPORTED, WITH OTHER PILOTS, SWIFTLY BACK TO ENGLAND WHERE THEY SOON GOT ANOTHER GLIDER AND WERE SENT BACK TO FRANCE.

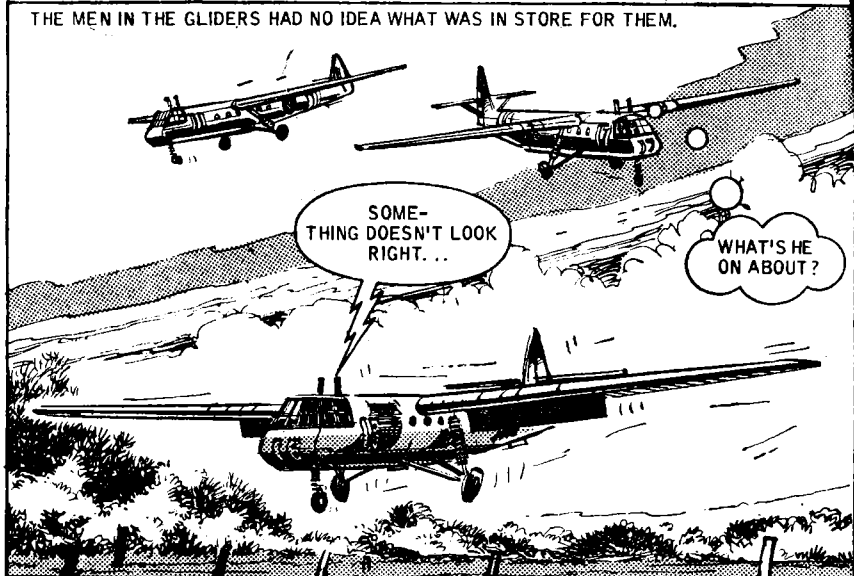


BUT THE ENEMY WASN'T GOING TO BE CAUGHT ON THE HOP AGAIN, AND HAD A WELCOME PREPARED.

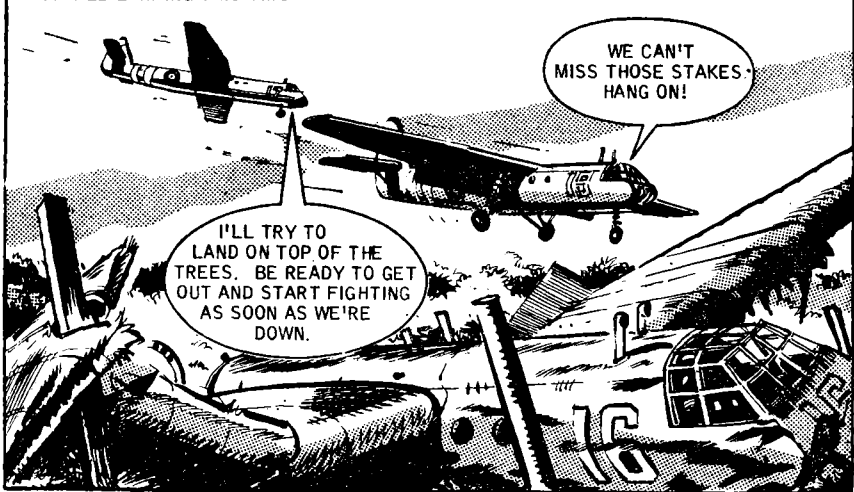


ROMMEL WAS IN CHARGE OF DEFENCE AGAINST INVASION AND ALTHOUGH DEFENCES WERE FAR FROM COMPLETE, THEY WOULD CERTAINLY CAUSE A FEW PROBLEMS.

THE MEN IN THE GLIDERS HAD NO IDEA WHAT WAS IN STORE FOR THEM.

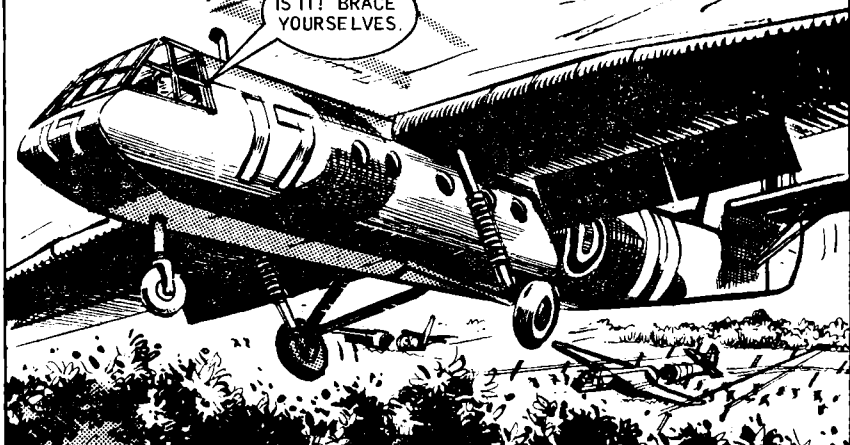


AS THE FIRST GLIDER CAME TO GRIEF ON THE STAKES, IT WAS CLEAR THERE WAS NO SIMPLE LANDING THIS TIME.



ROCKY WAS TAKING A CHANCE, FOR THE LARGE AIRCRAFT MIGHT BE SMASHED ON IMPACT WITH THE TREES - BUT DESTRUCTION WAS CERTAIN ON THE BOOBY-TRAPPED FIELD.

THIS
IS IT! BRACE
YOURSELVES.

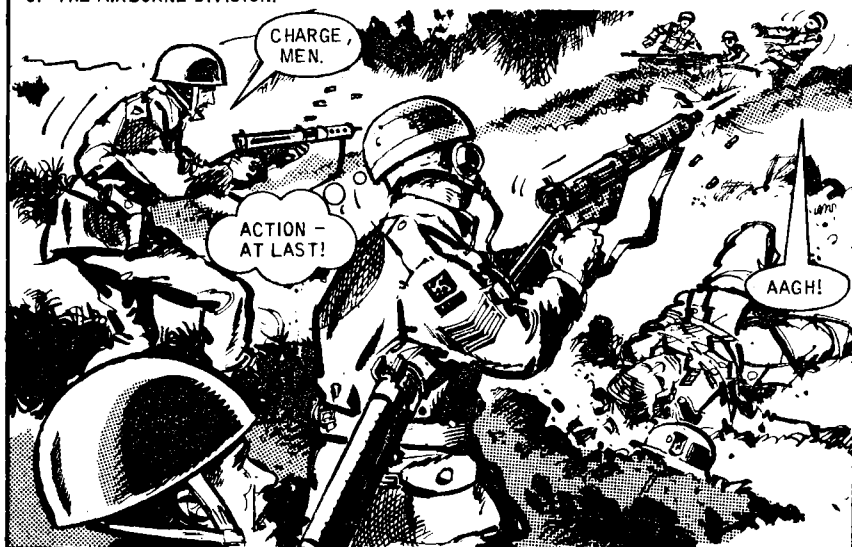


WITH A MASSIVE CREAKING AND CRACKING THE WOOD OF THE Horsa HIT THE WOOD OF THE FOREST AND THE TWO MERGED.

LIKE A SCHOOLBOY'S KITE THE GLIDER CAME TO A REST ON TOP OF THE TREES, AND EAGER SOLDIERS SWARMED OUT TO TACKLE THE ENEMY.



THE GERMANS SOON REALISED THAT THEIR TRAPS WERE NOT ENOUGH TO STOP THE MEN OF THE AIRBORNE DIVISION.



WITH THE INVASION OVER, ROCKY AND THE OTHER SURVIVING GLIDER PILOTS MADE IT BACK TO ENGLAND TO DISCOVER THEIR NEXT ACTION WOULD BE IN BURMA.



ROCKY AND JOE VOLUNTEERED. THE THOUGHT THAT MIKE MIGHT NOT HAVE RECEIVED TED'S LETTER NEVER ENTERED ROCKY'S HEAD.

A MIXED RECEPTION AWAITED THE GLIDER PILOTS WHEN THEY ARRIVED IN THE STICKY, SWELTERING HEAT OF THEIR BURMA BASE.



IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT ROCKY WOULD MEET MIKE AGAIN.



AND TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, JOE WAS TAKEN ILL.

HOW
ARE YOU,
MATE?

NOT BAD.
DOC SAYS IT'S
MALARIA.

MEANWHILE THE DOCTOR IN CHARGE OF THE HOSPITAL WAS WITH THE C. O.

HOW SERIOUS
IS THIS MALARIA
EPIDEMIC?

I'M AFRAID
MOST GLIDER PILOTS
HAVE GONE DOWN WITH IT.
THEY ARE NOT FIT
TO FLY.

MEANWHILE A LIEUTENANT DEREK PRESTON, IN COMMAND OF A CHINDIT PATROL CORNERED AND PINNED DOWN BY JAPS, DECIDED PILOTS WERE GOING TO BE NEEDED - GLIDER PILOTS

WE NEED
FOOD AND AMMO. THE
WIND CARRIED MOST OF THE
LAST PARACHUTE DROP
TO THE NIPS.

GLIDERS,
THEN - IF THEY
COULD LAND
HERE.

THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND THAT OUT, AND WITH THE MALARIA EPIDEMIC, ROCKY WAS THE ONLY GLIDER PILOT ABLE TO FLY. HIS TUG-PLANE PILOT WAS CAPTAIN HANK MITCHELL, A CHEERFUL YANK FLYER.



THE DAKOTA TOOK THE STRAIN AND THE Horsa FOLLOWED IT INTO THE HUMID AIR, FLOWN SOLELY BY ROCKY AND PACKED WITH SUPPLIES. THERE WAS A SURPRISE FOR MIKE, TOO -



SOURLY MIKE STAMPED AWAY. IMAGINE HAVING TO RESCUE THIS BLOKE WHO HAD LET HIS BROTHER BE CAPTURED?

BUT AT LEAST THE NEWS PLEASED THE CHINDITS. THEY SOON SPOTTED THE GLIDER AND ITS TUG.

HERE IT COMES. LOVELY BULLY AND BANGERS.

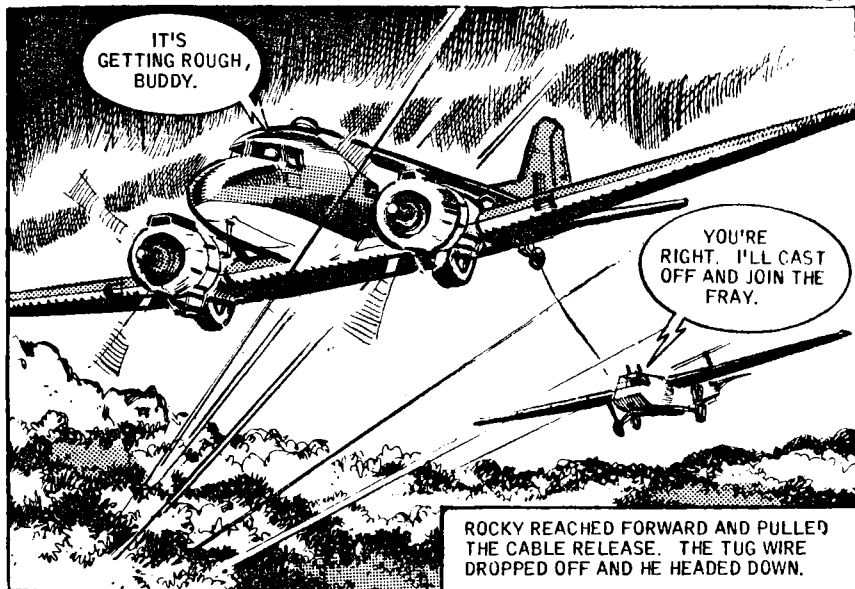
AND A FEW BULLETS FOR MY BREN TO KEEP THOSE YELLOW PERILS FROM EATING YOUR BULLY, BERT.

IF HE MAKES IT.

BUT THE JAPS HAD SEEN THE GLIDER TOO.

SHOOT IT DOWN. WITHOUT SUPPLIES OUR FOES WILL SOON SURRENDER.





DOWN DIVED THE GLIDER INTO A CONCENTRATED CURTAIN OF LEAD AS ROCKY HELD HIS COURSE GRIMLY, THE AMERICAN DISPATCHERS IN THE DAKOTA WINCED



ROCKY CONTINUED DOWN INTO A FEARSOME HAIL OF LEAD - AND A STRONG WIND.



AND OBVIOUS TO THE BULLETS, HE DEVOTED ALL HIS ATTENTION TO LANDING

THE WOODEN MACHINE MADE ITS ARRIVAL WITH A SCRUNCHING SHRIEK AS TORTURED FRAMES AND STRUTS DISINTEGRATED.



ROCKY'S MIND WASN'T ON THE CHINDITS' THANKS. HE WAS WATCHING THE DAKOTA AS IT STARTED ITS RUN-IN



THE WIND MADE AN ACCURATE DROP ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE, AND HANK ONLY GOT SOME OF HIS LOAD WHERE IT WAS MEANT TO BE - TO THE ANNOYANCE OF DERIK PRISTON, THE CHINDIT OFFICER.



THEY ANXIOUSLY PEERED AT THE DAKOTA AS IT BANKED AND SWUNG IN AGAIN.



SWIFTLY THEY SET ABOUT COLLECTING THE SUPPLIES.



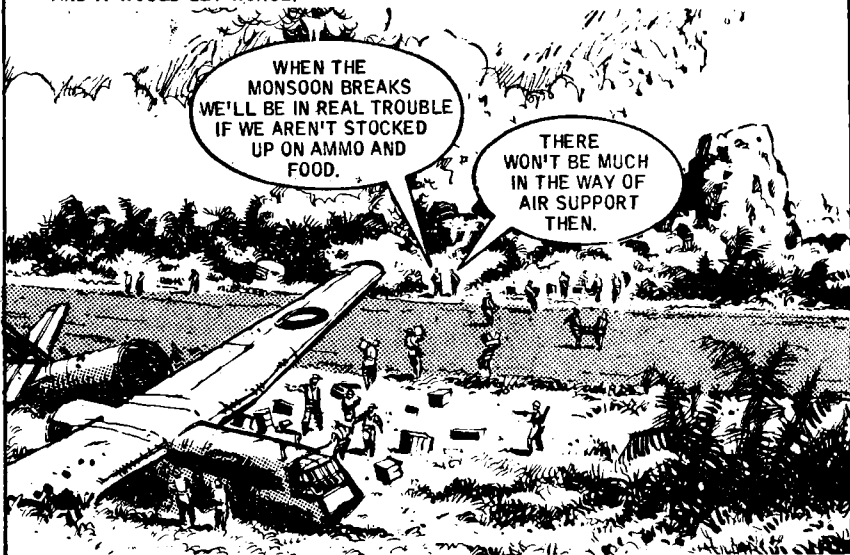
THERE WAS STILL A LOT OF SUPPLIES NEEDED BY THE CHINDITS, BUT THERE WAS LITTLE TIME TO COMPIL A LIST AS THE JAPS ATTACKED AGAIN.



THE ATTACK WAS BEATEN OFF AGAIN, BUT THE SITUATION WAS STILL PERILOUS - AND IT WOULD GET WORSE.

WHEN THE
MONSOON BREAKS
WE'LL BE IN REAL TROUBLE
IF WE AREN'T STOCKED
UP ON AMMO AND
FOOD.

THERE
WON'T BE MUCH
IN THE WAY OF
AIR SUPPORT
THEN.

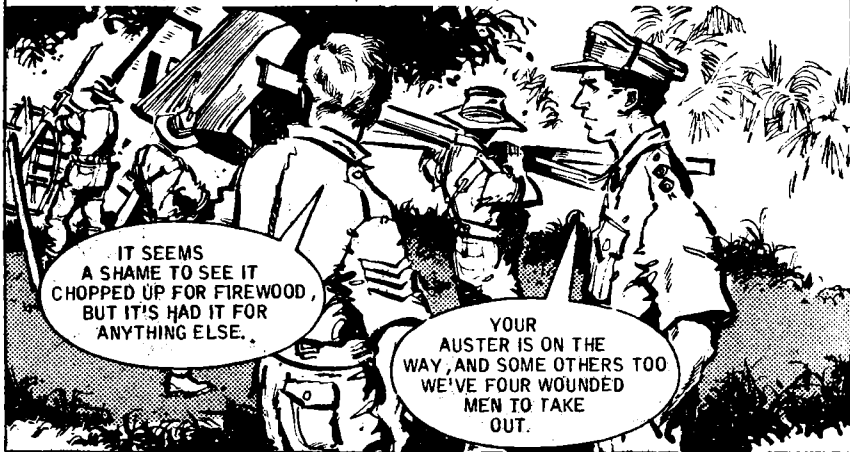


AND THE CHINDITS DEPENDED ENTIRELY ON AIR SUPPORT FOR SUPPLIES.

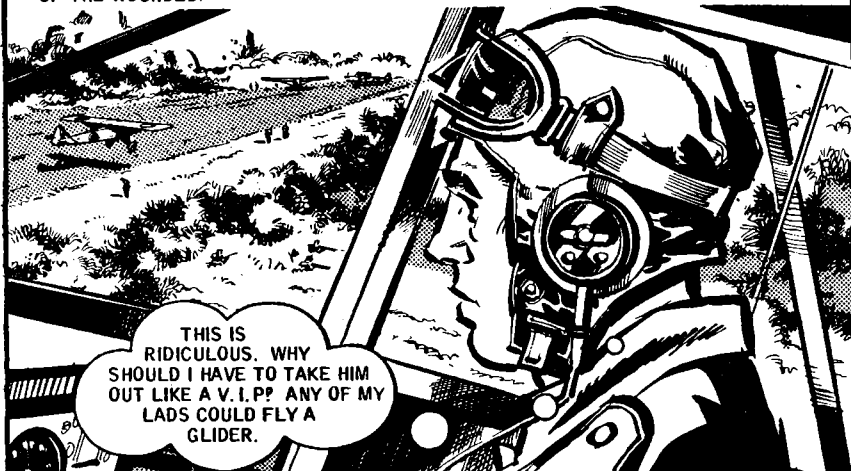
THE HORSA ROCKY HAD BROUGHT IN, AND SMASHED, WASN'T WASTED ..

IT SEEMS
A SHAME TO SEE IT
CHOPPED UP FOR FIREWOOD,
BUT IT'S HAD IT FOR
ANYTHING ELSE.

YOUR
AUSTER IS ON THE
WAY, AND SOME OTHERS TOO
WE'VE FOUR WOUNDED
MEN TO TAKE
OUT.

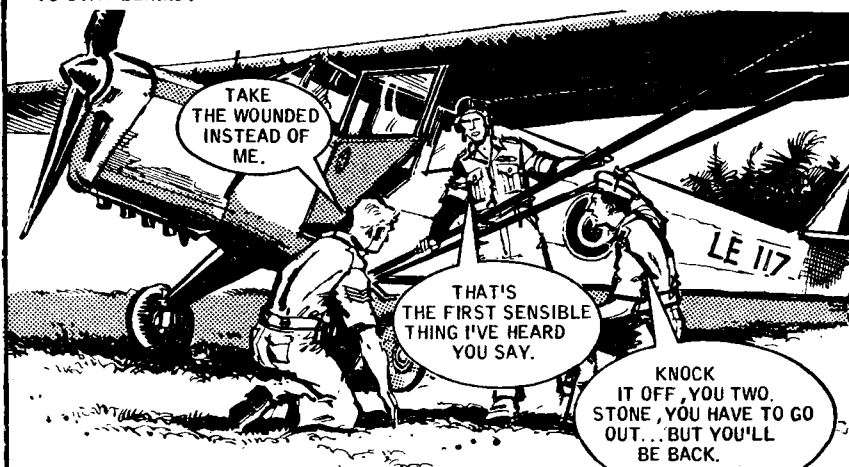


THE AUSTERS DIDN'T WASTE ANY TIME, STRAIGHT IN, UNLOAD SOME SUPPLIES, PICK UP THE WOUNDED AND STRAIGHT OUT. EXCEPT THAT MIKE WASN'T TO CARRY ANY OF THE WOUNDED.



BUT DEEP DOWN MIKE KNEW IT WASN'T SO. THERE WAS A KNACK IN HANDLING ONE OF THE BIG HORSAS - AND HE DIDN'T HAVE IT.

AS EACH AUSTER COULD ONLY TAKE ONE OR TWO PASSENGERS, SOMEONE WOULD HAVE TO STAY BEHIND.



THE FLIGHT BACK WAS AN UNPLEASANT ONE. NEITHER SPOKE.

BECAUSE
OF STONE I'VE
TO GO BACK AGAIN
FOR THAT WOUNDED
SQUADDIE.

HE'S STILL
GOT A GRUDGE
AGAINST ME.

NO EXPLANATION FROM ROCKY WOULD RESOLVE THE PROBLEM... AND THE MISSING LETTER WAS NOW JUST SODDEN PULP.

TIME WAS VITAL. ALL THAT WOULD BE TAKEN TO THE CHINDITS HAD TO BE MOVED IN BEFORE THE MONSOON STARTED. MIKE'S FRIENDS WONDERED ABOUT THE SULLEN FEUD.

I CAN'T
SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT
AGAINST HIM, HE SEEMS OK
TO ME. AND HE MUST HAVE
GUTS TO TAKE OUT AN-
OTHER GLIDER WITH-
OUT A BREAK.

MAYBE HE'S
NOT AS BAD AS
I THOUGHT. BUT MY
BROTHER COULD
TELL ME

REFUELLING WAS THE ONLY THING THAT STOPPED THE AUSTERS FOLLOWING IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIG HORSA AS ROCKY LIFTED INTO THE AIR AGAIN.

YOU NEVER
HEAR FROM YOUR
BROTHER, MATE?

NO. BUT
YOU KNOW HOW LONG
MAIL TAKES GETTING
HERE.

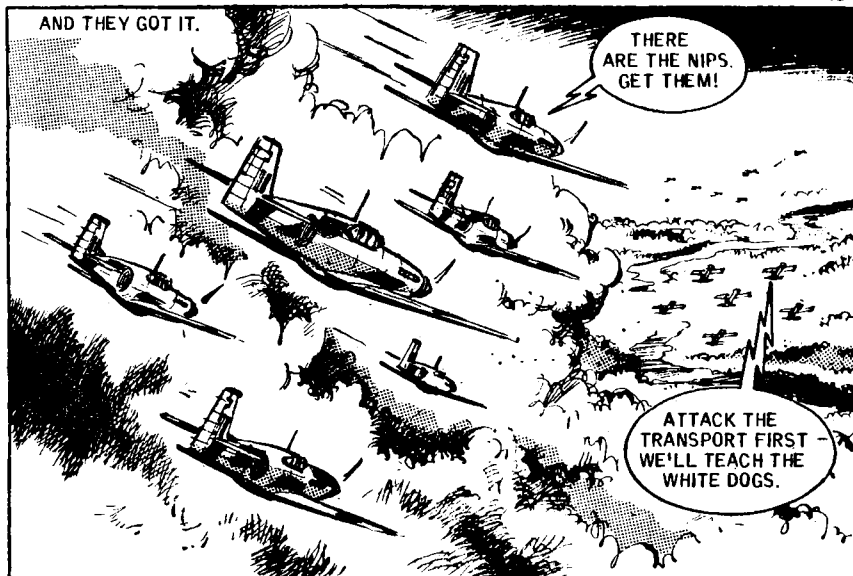
AND SOON ALL ELSE WAS FORGOTTEN AS THEY HEADED TOWARDS THE CHINDIT POSITION.

THE ENEMY ALSO KNEW THE MONSOON
WAS APPROACHING AND THAT THEY
WOULD ALSO BE GROUNDED BY IT.

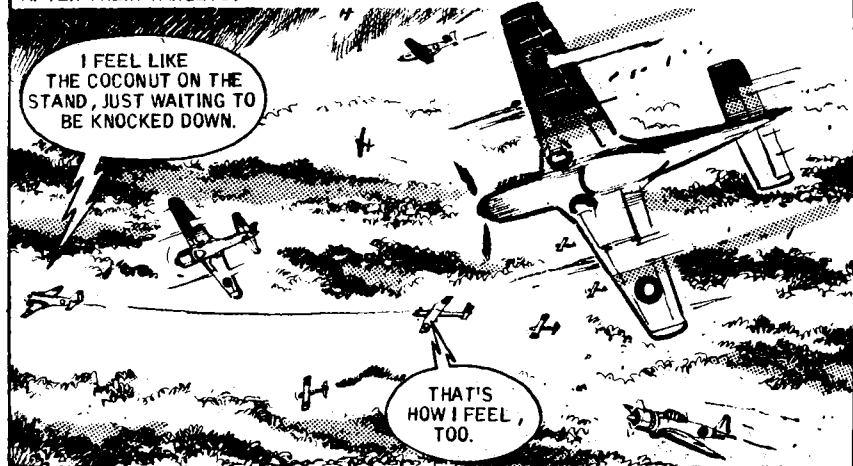
DESTROY
ANY ENEMY AIRCRAFT
WHICH COME NEAR THE
ACCURSED CHINDITS!

BUT THE ALLIES HAD FIGHTERS IN
BURMA TOO...

...AND THEIR PILOTS WERE
ALWAYS READY FOR A FIGHT.



THE ZEROES HAD BEEN THE MASTERS OF THE EASTERN SKIES UNTIL THE P51 MUSTANGS HAD WRESTED THAT COMMAND FROM THEM. BUT THE FANATICAL JAP PILOTS KEPT AFTER THEIR TARGETS.



THE Horsa AND DAKOTA WERE BOTH HIT AND IT WAS TIME TO PART COMPANY.



ONLY MIKE'S AUSTER SURVIVED THE HAIL OF JAP FIRE AND HE PREPARED TO FOLLOW ROCKY'S GLIDER INTO LAND AS FLAMES STARTED FANNING FROM THE REAR OF THE Horsa.



THE ZEROES WERE NO MATCH FOR THE MUSTANGS AND ONCE AGAIN ROCKY HAD GOT HIS VALUABLE LOAD SAFELY TO THE BASE.



THANKS,
AIR BOYS. DON'T
TAKE ANY AMMO HOME
GIVE IT ALL TO
THE NIPS.

WE WILL. I
DON'T RECKON WE'LL
MEET ANY ZEROES ON THE
WAY BACK - THEY HAVE
HAD A BELLY-FULL
FOR TODAY.

MIKE, TOO, LANDED UNHARMED, BUT HE WAS FAR FROM SAFE YET. A SNIPER HAD PATIENTLY WORKED HIS WAY SUICIDALLY CLOSE TO THE AIRSTRIP



THAT
WAS CLOSE. FOR
A MINUTE I DIDN'T THINK
I'D MAKE IT.

PREPARE
TO DIE, WHITE
DOG!

THE SNIPER SQUEEZED THE TRIGGER
AND THE BULLET CAUGHT MIKE IN
THE SHOULDER, SPINNING HIM AROUND.



THE SNIPER'S SUCCESS WAS SHORT-LIVED. A BULLET FROM THE CHINDIT'S RIFLE
SOON PUT AN END TO HIM.



MIKE'S WOUND WASN'T SERIOUS, BUT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO PILOT THE LIGHT AUSTER. ROCKY HAD A SUGGESTION -



ROCKY LISTENED PATIENTLY AS MIKE REFRESHED HIS MEMORY ABOUT THE AUSTER CONTROLS, BUT THE LAST WORDS CARRIED THE USUAL SNEER.



BUT KEEPING THAT PROMISE LOOKED LIKE BEING DIFFICULT. EVEN A NEWCOMER TO THE FAR EAST COULD RECOGNISE THE FURY OF THE MONSOON WHEN IT BROKE.



BUT ONCE IT HAD BEGUN, THE RAIN CAME DOWN AS IF IT NEVER MEANT TO STOP. ALL FLYING WAS CANCELLED.



THE LETTERS WERE NEVER MORE WELCOME AND THE BORED MEN GRABBED THEM EAGERLY.

THIS ONE'S FROM TED, AND THAT'S HIS HANDWRITING ON THAT ONE FOR MIKE.



QUICKLY HE OPENED THE LETTER TO HIM FROM TED.

"... IS MIKE ALL RIGHT? HE NEVER ANSWERED MY LAST LETTER. I'VE WRITTEN AGAIN..."



AS HE READ ON, ROCKY REALISED THE LETTER FROM TED TO MIKE HAD GONE ASTRAY. NOW AT LAST HE KNEW WHY MIKE STILL DISBELIEVED HIM -

BUT THIS NEW LETTER FOR MIKE WILL PROBABLY EXPLAIN IT ALL. I MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE SURE HE GETS IT.



THE STEADY, CONSTANT DOWNPOUR ANNOYED AND WORRIED THE ALLIES WHO DEPEND ON AIR POWER. BUT IT ELATED THE JAPS.



THE CHINDITS HAD PLENTY TO WORRY ABOUT. THEY WERE RAPIDLY RUNNING SHORT OF AMMUNITION.



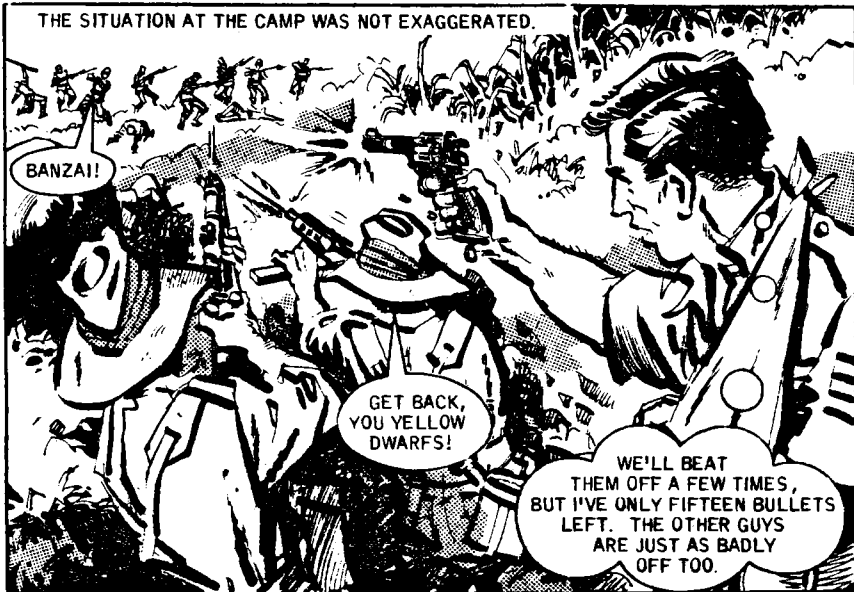
FLYING WAS STILL AT A STANDSTILL, BUT ROCKY AND HANK HADN'T GIVEN UP.



ROCKY'S REQUEST TO HAVE A TRY AT REACHING THE CHINDIT CAMP WAS TURNED DOWN AT FIRST WITH THE COMMENT THAT HE WAS A MADMAN. BUT THE SITUATION WAS CHANGING...



THE SITUATION AT THE CAMP WAS NOT EXAGGERATED.



THE CHINDITS DIDN'T EXPECT ANY AIRBORNE HELP, BUT SOME WAS ON THE WAY... MAYBE.



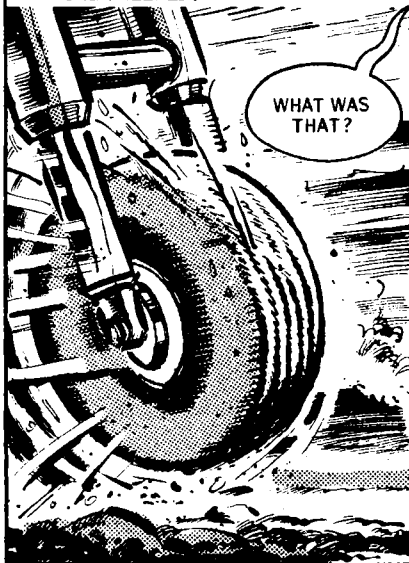
TENSELY ROCKY PREPARED FOR THE LIFT-OFF, GLAD THAT JOE WAS FULLY RECOVERED FROM HIS MALARIA AND HAD VOLUNTEERED TO HELP HIM AND HANK WITH HIS MAD MISSION.



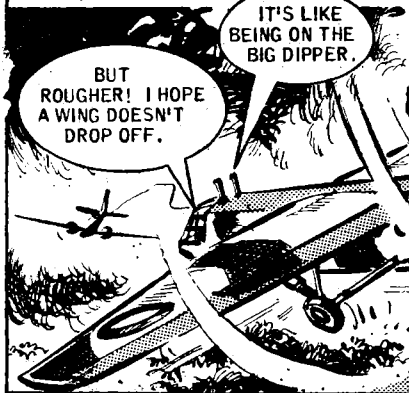
THE HORSA LIFTED OFF WITHOUT ANY FUSS, AND THE DAKOTA'S TAIL WHEEL ROSE INTO THE AIR. BUT EVEN WITH PARTIALLY DEFLATED TYRES, THE MAIN WHEELS STUCK STUBBORNLY TO THE SOGGY GROUND.



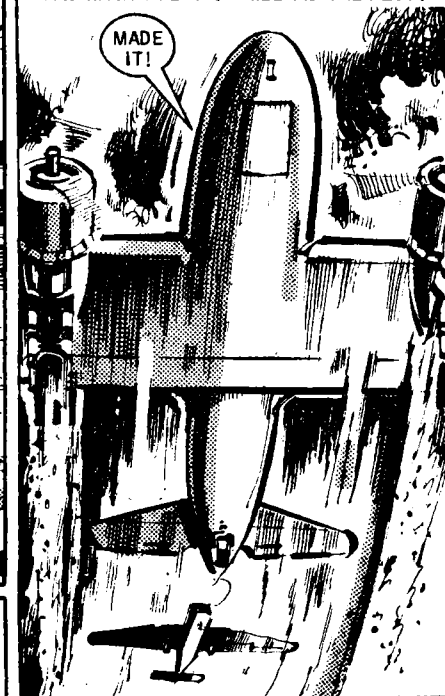
IT LOOKED AS IF THE DAKOTA WOULD NEVER LIFT, BUT HITTING SOME STONES HELPED.



NO GLIDER HAD EVER BEEN DESIGNED TO FLY THROUGH SUCH WEATHER, BUT THE HORSA WAS TOUGHER THAN EVERYONE THOUGHT.



THE STONES BOUNCED THE DAKOTA, AND HANK'S FLYING SKILL DID THE REST.




NEWS OF THE SUCCESSFUL TAKE-OFF WAS RADIOED TO THE CHINDITS.



FINDING THE CHINDIT CAMP WAS A PROBLEM WHICH HAD BEEN ON ROCKY'S MIND, BUT THAT WAS SOLVED.




THE JAPS KNEW FROM THE CAREFUL WAY THE CHINDITS WERE HOARDING AMMO THAT THEY'D LITTLE LEFT.



NO PRISONERS.
THOSE DOGS HAVE
GIVEN US TOO MUCH
TROUBLE.

THE FINAL BATTLE WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN.

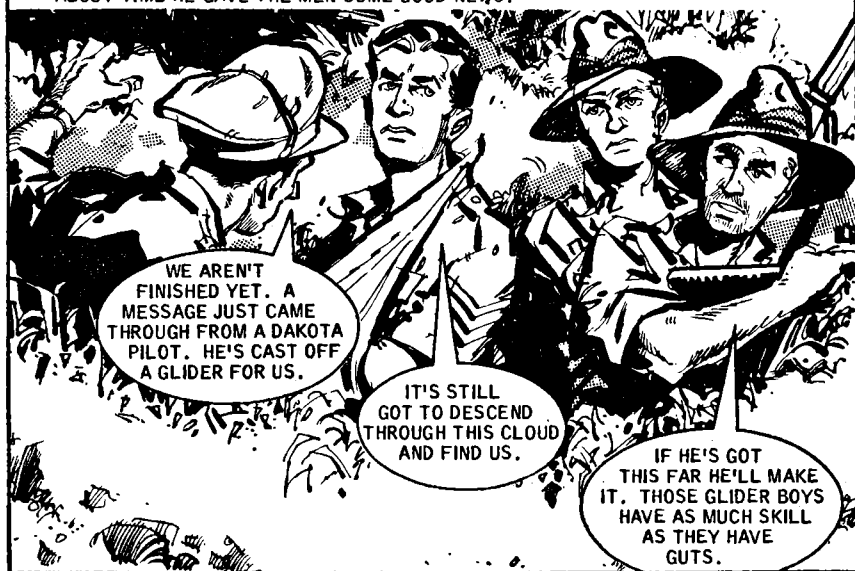
THE CHINDITS HAD BEEN PREPARING TO SELL THEIR LIVES DEARLY. THEY NEITHER EXPECTED NOR WANTED MERCY FROM THEIR ENEMY.



I'LL TAKE
A FEW OF THEM
WITH ME.

I'D KEEP
THE LAST BULLET
FOR YOURSELF, MATE.
THOSE DEVILS DON'T
LIKE US MUCH.

LIEUTENANT PRESTON HAD OVERHEARD THESE REMARKS AND THOUGHT IT WAS ABOUT TIME HE GAVE THE MEN SOME GOOD NEWS.



THE GLIDER INCHED DOWN. IT WOULD DO NO GOOD TO THE HARD-PRESSED CHINDITS IF THEY CRASHED. BUT IF THEY WENT TOO FAR THEY WOULD MISS THE CAMP. THE DECISION WAS ROCKY'S -



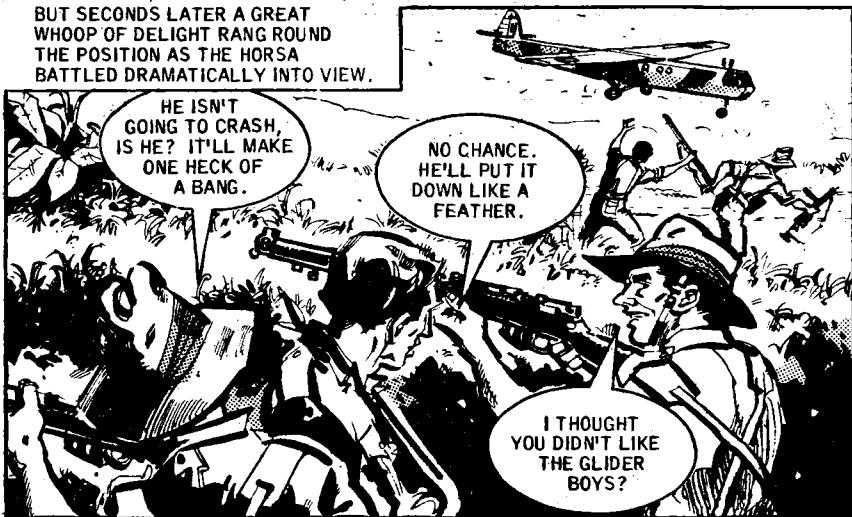
THE SITUATION WAS DESPERATE. TWO BREN MACHINE GUNS HAD FALLEN SILENT WITH NO AMMUNITION LEFT. ANOTHER STRONG JAP CHARGE WOULD FINISH MATTERS.



WITH A NEW
MAG I'D KNOCK
THEM OFF BY THE
DOZEN.

IT'LL BE
BAYONETS NOW,
WACKER. AND STONES
AND FISTS...

BUT SECONDS LATER A GREAT
WHOOOP OF DELIGHT RANG ROUND
THE POSITION AS THE Horsa
BATTLED DRAMATICALLY INTO VIEW.



HE ISN'T
GOING TO CRASH,
IS HE? IT'LL MAKE
ONE HECK OF
A BANG.

NO CHANCE.
HE'LL PUT IT
DOWN LIKE A
FEATHER.

I THOUGHT
YOU DIDN'T LIKE
THE GLIDER
BOYS?

THE SIGHT OF THE GLIDER MADE MIKE FORGET HIS QUARREL WITH ROCKY.



THE Horsa LANDED AND WAS IMMEDIATELY UNLOADED.



THE CHINDITS WASTED NO TIME AS THE LAST JAP ATTACK SWEEPED IN.



WITH PLENTY OF AMMUNITION AVAILABLE THE CHINDITS RETALIATED FIERCELY.



AS WELL AS BEING GOOD GLIDER PILOTS, JOE AND ROCKY PROVED THEY WERE JUST AS EFFICIENT ON THE GROUND.



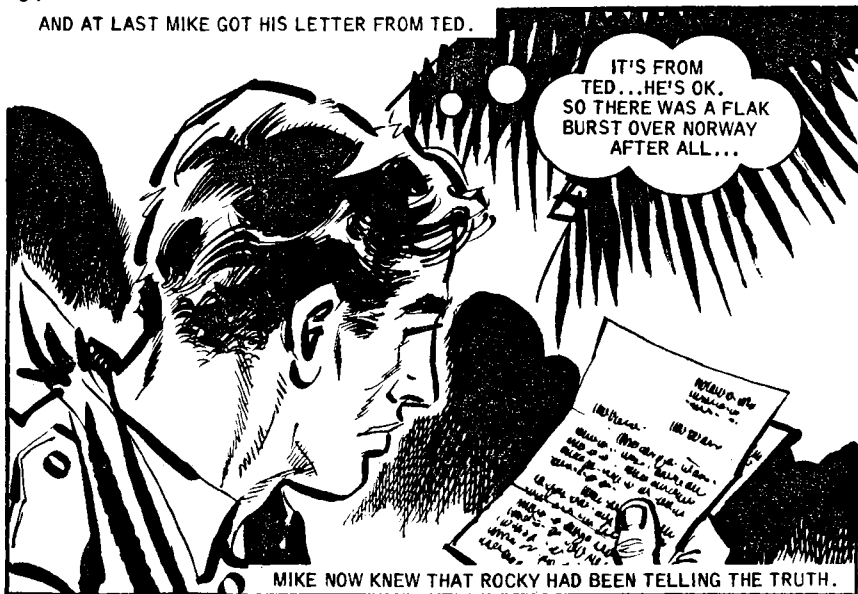
THE WARNING SHOUT WAS FOLLOWED BY A SURE SHOT AS A FANATICAL JAP FAILED IN HIS ATTEMPT TO CUT DOWN ROCKY.



AS THE MEN RELAXED, ROCKY PRODUCED THE MAIL HE HAD BROUGHT ALONG WITH THE SUPPLIES. IT MADE HIM MORE OF A HERO THAN THE AMMUNITION HAD.




AND AT LAST MIKE GOT HIS LETTER FROM TED.



MIKE NOW KNEW THAT ROCKY HAD BEEN TELLING THE TRUTH.

HE APOLOGISED TO ROCKY AND THE FEUD THAT HAD BEEN FORGOTTEN ABOUT DURING THE HEAT OF BATTLE WAS NO MORE.





NOW, WHEN THE MONSOON RAINS ABATED SLIGHTLY, ROCKY, JOE AND MIKE WOULD BE PICKED UP AND TAKEN BACK TO THE AIRFIELD.

FROM THERE THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO FLY THEIR HAZARDOUS MISSIONS UNTIL THE END OF THE WAR...AND VICTORY!

Commando
THE END

Great news! Another four all-action Commando stories hit the shops in three weeks!
Don't miss—

" BREAKING POINT "
" JUNGLE GIPSY "

" IDOL OF HATE "
" SCHOOL FOR SPIES "

DON'T DELAY!

***GET
THE
LATEST
FOUR***



Commando



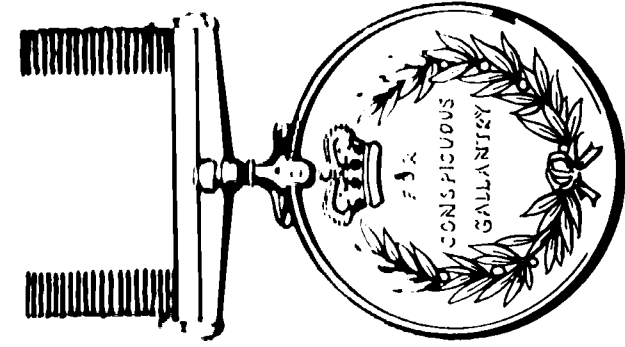
***BOOKS
TODAY
They're
the
GREATEST***



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KNOW YOUR MEDALS

No. 16 — THE CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY MEDAL



RIBBON: Originally blue, white and blue in equal stripes, it was changed in 1921 to its present form of a wide central white band, with narrow blue stripes on either side.

MEDAL: The silver medal carries the words "FOR CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY" surmounted by a crown and surrounded by a laurel wreath. It is suspended from a straight clasp.

AWARD: Royal Navy petty officers and ratings, as well as n.c.o.s and men of the Royal Marines, who distinguish themselves by acts of conspicuous gallantry in action with the enemy qualify for this medal, as do men of the Merchant Navy. It is the equivalent of the Army's Disting. Conduct Medal.

NO WAY BUT DOWN

If you're an Army glider pilot, you've a dodgy job to do — landing yourself and your troops behind enemy lines in the teeth of anything the enemy flings at you. Hazardous at the best of times, it's grimly suicidal when thick flak is coming up, the exploding shells chucking your frail Horsa glider all over the sky.

And if an unlucky burst cuts your tow-rope long before you reach your landing ground, there's only one way to go — down . . . and fast!

 **Commando**

